

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

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Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Stuttgart Soldiers add U.S. flair to annual celebration in Augsburg



photos by Hugh C. McBride

Sgt. Tiffany Hester waves to the crowds during an Aug. 26 parade in Augsburg. Hester and twelve other Soldiers from Stuttgart brought a military flair to the festivities, which blended traditional Bavarian elements with more modern touches. For additional coverage see page 14.

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Joint Chiefs' CSM visits area troops

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, the senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spends some time with Stuttgart-area troops.



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New principals lead local DoDDS schools

As school starts for Stuttgart students, five new principals join the leadership teams of the community's Department of Defense Dependents Schools.



'Small stuff' worth the sweat

Details determine difference between success, failure

By Maj. Kevin Walker
Commentary

Undoubtedly, some time in our life we have all been told, "Don't sweat the small stuff." But instead, I would argue to say, "Sweat the small stuff." It's the small stuff that is going to set you apart. More on that in a minute.

We all rose our right hand and volunteered to become part of this great Air Force for various reasons.

Some may have entered to serve the country, some to pay for college, and some may have entered out of a sense of patriotism following Sept. 11, 2001.

No matter what our reasons, the overwhelming majority of today's Airmen care a great deal about the Air Force and are passionate about their job and career field.

With that passion comes the drive to excel and the pride that is felt from a job well done.

But for some reason, many people don't let that passion or pride drive them all the way through their objective.

Many people have their eyes set on large targets but end up missing the small ones. While large targets are important, it's the small ones that can add up.

I had a commander once tell me the difference between a good unit and a great unit is the attention to detail. He couldn't have been more right.

Think of it like this. You have moved to a new assignment. Upon your arrival, you may have had someone meet you at the airport. They may have had a vehicle waiting for you, and they may have even driven you to your hotel or on-base lodging.

While there is nothing wrong with that welcome, some attention to the small details would really have made an impact.

Suppose that same sponsor met you at the airport with a welcome package, knew not only your name, but the name of

Small things not only can set a good unit apart from a great unit, they can save lives.
Practicing, demanding and enforcing attention to detail does not mean you are obsessive-compulsive; it means you care about your job.

your family members and pets, took you to pick up your rental car, gave you a quick tour of the surrounding area, drove you to your room, and even had some kind of food and drinks waiting for you in your room.

Those are the little details that delineate a good sponsor program with a great sponsor program. Just those little details tell a newly arrived Airman that the unit they are now assigned to is squared away and ready for them.

One more example could be your unit's physical training program.

Suppose your unit's PT program is conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Stretching is left up to each individual, the run can be however far or fast everyone would like, and then after the run everyone gets back together for cool-down stretches.

Now consider that same program where the unit fell into formation for stretches, everyone was in the Air Force PT uniform, everyone participated in calisthenics, an organized run was conducted for a known distance or pace, everyone conducted cool-down stretches together, and then pass-ons and orders of the day were issued.

While they are both effective PT programs, those little details easily set apart the good PT program from the great PT program. As good programs turn into great programs, the standard will be set.

The next thing you know, the squadron on a whole has transformed from a good squadron to a great squadron.

To put this all in perspective, small things not only can set a good unit apart from a great unit, they can save lives.

The attention to detail that comes with "sweating the small stuff" will help maintainers ensure all the tools are properly secured before the aircraft engines turn, they will help engineers ensure the electrical box is locked out before wires are cut, they will help trainers ensure the latest information is taught to teams deploying down range.

The list can go on and on.

Practicing, demanding and enforcing attention to detail does not mean you are obsessive-compulsive; it means you care about your job and your Airmen.

It means you have the passion and pride not only to do what is right, but to go that extra mile and make sure your task, unit, wing and Air Force are as squared away as they can possibly be.

Sweat the small stuff, and the small stuff will set you apart.

Walker is commander of the U.S. Air Force's 736th Security Forces Squadron on Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

This commentary originally appeared online on the Air Force Print News Web site, www.af.mil/news.

THE CITIZEN

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Wife puts compliment in words Soldier/husband can understand

By Kamryn Jaroszewski
Commentary

I would go to war with my husband.

Of course, I say that knowing I'd never actually have to go. I wanted to deploy after the terrorist attacks in 2001. I'd been in the Army for 14 months when Sept. 11 hap-

pened, and I was psyched about my chance to stick it to the terrorists. Or, at least, take pictures of other Soldiers sticking it to the terrorists.

See, I was in a different Army than my husband. We both wore the same uniform, but he was in the rough-and-tough, sleep-in-the-field-for-weeks kind of unit. I was in the "logical" Army — or as logical as it was going to get.

If it was pouring down rain, the Soldiers in my public affairs office did physical training in the gym. My husband would pack a towel for his truck so his seats wouldn't get wet. If there was a post-wide formation, my section would meet an hour before. My husband's unit would meet two and a half hours before to have company, battalion and brigade formations first.

I was always amazed at the inner workings of a line unit. They had cool equipment and actually knew how to use it. I had cool equipment too, but I couldn't call for fire on my digital tape recorder.

When my husband returned from field training exercises, he'd tell me how his squad engaged the enemy or how they fashioned showers out of camelbacks. He'd show me on the terrain map where his squad started, where they

*Never take for granted
the power of your words and actions,
especially when you are in uniform.*

ended up and how they determined possible ambush areas.

When his unit started training for deployment, I'd listen to his play-by-play as if I were watching a movie. It was so hard to believe we were in the same service, sometimes.

During all of that, one thing became apparently clear to me: my husband and his "Joes" knew their stuff. They knew it so well they were complimented in Kuwait by the person in charge of the convoy training center. He said Jared's group was the best he'd ever seen.

Once, I tried to compliment Jared. I told him I was proud he knew his job so well and that he was able to teach other Soldiers.

He told me to quit being silly. I guess they don't have positive reinforcement in his Army.

So instead, I'll tell him how I feel about his Soldiering in terms he may better understand.

Honey, I'd go to war with you.

Jaroszewski is with the Fort Richardson, Alaska, Public Affairs Office. This commentary originally appeared online on the Army News Web site, www.army.mil/arnews.

'Off-site' seminar designed to focus garrison effort, enhance customer service

By Hugh C. McBride

They batted balloons and broke a few eggs. They discussed strategies and debated techniques. They sought inspiration from Ben & Jerry and guidance from Uncle Walt.

They even attempted to predict the future.

For two days in late August, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and more than 20 members of his staff gathered in the Robinson Barracks Chapel Annex to evaluate the garrison's efforts to serve its customers and to strategize for an efficient and effective future.

In addition to ensuring that USAG Stuttgart continues to operate in a successful, customer-centric manner, the two-day "Leaders' Off-Site" was also designed to promote a sense of camaraderie among the men and women who lead the garrison's various directorates and offices.

"This wasn't easy work, but it was a great opportunity for us to work together as a team to plan for the future of our garrison," Juergens said. "Mission and vision statements can't just be slogans – they've got to be statements that we all believe in."

The off-site sessions were led by Alan Cole, chief of human resources development division for the Civilian Human Resources Agency Europe Region.

Cole led the attendees through a series of exercises and activities that culminated in the creation of mission and vision statements that expressed the purpose and direction of USAG Stuttgart and Garmisch and reflected the direction and guiding philosophies of the Installation Management Agency and the Department of the Army.

Seminar participants studied mission and vision statements from companies including Disney, Ben & Jerry's and Starbucks.

They also engaged in creative-thinking and team-building activities that involved keeping dozens of balloons afloat simultaneously and converting drinking straws and adhesive tape into protective devices to cushion eggs from six-foot drops. Though not typical endeavors for a military environment, the exercises were undertaken to stimulate creative, mission-focused thinking in a collaborative environment.

"I'm confident that the results we achieved will guide our garrison staff in our efforts to provide superior service to our customers and tenant organizations," Juergens said.

This was a great opportunity for us to work together as a team to plan for the future of our garrison.

Mission and vision statements can't just be slogans – they've got to be statements that we all believe in.

Col. Kenneth G. Juergens
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Mission & Vision

Mission Statement

Provide our joint, enduring military communities with quality facilities and first-class services and programs that enhance mission readiness and foster hometown good neighbor environments.

Vision Statement

Setting the standards that make people and units say "I'm glad I live here!"

News & Notes

Career Management Symposium

Headquarters, U.S. European Command hosts the Career Management Symposium Sept. 18, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Patch Barracks Theater.

A first of its kind in the Stuttgart military community, the symposium provides valuable career information to Sailors, Officers and their families.

Representatives from the Center for Career Development will lead workshops on a variety of career management topics and be on hand to talk one on one.

For more information call PSC Rubens Almeida at 430-8392/civ. 0711-680-8392 or email almeida@eucom.mil.

Knights of Columbus Golf Tourney

The Knights of Columbus hosts its first-annual golf tournament Oct. 6 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. The shotgun start will be 9 a.m. Course opens at 7 a.m. for registration.

The tournament is four person best ball format.

Cost is \$40 and includes lunch. Proceeds go to support Project Liberia.

For more information visit 430-7862/civ. 0711-680-7862 or email kofcchaplainwaterscouncil@hotmail.com.

Stuttgart schools need substitutes

Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Stuttgart are currently accepting applications for substitute teachers at schools on Patch Barracks, Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks.

Substitutes play essential roles in our students' education. Make a positive difference in our students' lives: become a DoDDS substitute. For details visit www.bav-dso.eu.dodea.edu and click "employment."

Youth baseball, soccer programs

• Stuttgart American Little League is sponsoring a **Summer/Fall Baseball Program** for all players ages 9 to 15. Coaches will be on hand to teach the skills of the game (hitting, fielding, base running, pitching, catching) and team play.

This program, which is open to boys and girls, will be conducted Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m., on Husky Field #3.

For more information contact Larry Tannenbaum at 0711-699-2727 or email L1089@hotmail.com or Dave Frasca at 07031-168-5762 or email dekec5@hotmail.com.

• The **Olympic Development Soccer Program Europe-Stuttgart District** is looking for Stuttgart's talented soccer players. ODP-Europe is a U.S. Youth Soccer-sponsored skills development program designed to take already talented soccer players to the next level and be the feeder program for the U.S. Youth Soccer Program's State, Regional, and National Soccer Teams.

Tryouts, rain or shine, are scheduled Sept. 10 on Husky Field, Patch Barracks. For more information e-mail Mark Marchant at markchamtmtka@t-online.de or Rob Mallets at lisanrubbr@pjsnet.de.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child and Youth Services Proudly Presents

A Day for Kids

Saturday, September 16, on Patch Barracks
(Husky Field & Patch Fitness Center)

Opening Day Ceremonies
for YS Soccer & Flag Football
at 9 a.m. on Husky Field!

A great day to celebrate
Stuttgart's families!

Family-friendly games &
activities starting at 9:30 a.m.
in the Fitness Center!

For more information call Child and Youth Services at DSN 430-8214 / CIV 0711-680-8214

Gainey meets with area service members

EUCOM hosts senior enlisted advisor to Chairman of Joint Chiefs

By Jaime L. Wood

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, the senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the U.S. European Command area of responsibility Aug. 28 to 31. Gainey is the first senior enlisted leader to represent the entire Department of Defense.

During his visit, Gainey met with Army Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, EUCOM deputy commander, and toured and addressed military enlisted members assigned to EUCOM headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Defense Information Systems Agency, Marine Forces Europe and Special Operations Command Europe.

"I want to thank you for serving your country," Gainey said to the joint services audience. "We all have our own military traditions, uniforms and cultures, but everyone in the military falls under one entity - the Department of Defense. All service members - no matter what their individual branch is - are in the fight to keep the U.S. protected. We're all involved in the mission against terror."

The senior enlisted leader also participated in an urban terrain demonstration with 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) soldiers, visited wounded and injured personnel and the Fisher House at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and spent time with enlisted members stationed at the Joint Analysis Center, Royal Air Force Molesworth, United Kingdom.

He also attended a Joint Enlisted Dining In ceremony in the Swabian Special Events Center on Stuttgart's Patch Barracks.

Gainey encouraged noncommissioned officers to make sure their junior enlisted are trained properly to face the challenges that lie ahead of them. "Train your people like there is no tomorrow," he said. "You must teach your lower enlisted to focus on the task at hand."

He also had a message for the junior enlisted members during his visits.

"If you haven't been on the war front yet, your time is coming. Be ready for when that time comes - develop and maintain your combat skills."



Hugh C. McBride

Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, right, the first senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with members of the EUCOM color guard before the start of Stuttgart's Aug. 29 Joint Enlisted Dining In ceremony in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks. Gainey spent two days in Stuttgart during a four-day tour within the U.S. European Command area of responsibility.

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM J. GAINEY BIOGRAPHY

CSM Gainey is the first senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His previous assignments included service with the 2nd Armored Division, Ft. Hood, Texas; 1st Infantry Division, Stuttgart, Germany; 24th Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, Ga.; 4th Training Brigade, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; and several others.

As a command sergeant major, Gainey has served as a tank battalion CSM; a cavalry squadrom CSM; Commandant of the Joint Readiness Center (JRTC) Noncommissioned Officers Academy; brigade CSM; and 2nd ACR CSM.

Gainey holds an associate's degree in Applied Science from Vincennes University.

Gainey is married and has a son and a daughter.

Lonergan becomes senior enlisted advisor for 1/10th

Replaces CSM Bynum during ceremony on Panzer Kaserne

By Jaime L. Wood

U.S. European Command Public Affairs

1st Col. Francis Beaudette, 1st Battalion 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) commander, passed a traditional sword and responsibility of the battalion's enlisted force to Army Command Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Lonergan, during a change of responsibility ceremony on Panzer Kaserne Aug. 31, 2006.

Lonergan replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Melvin L. Bynum as the senior enlisted leader of the battalion.

Lonergan's new duties include carrying out the policies and standards of the performance, training, appearance and conduct of the battalion's enlisted personnel. He also advises and initiates recommendations to the commander and staff in matters pertaining to the local noncommissioned officer support channel.

The battalion commander described the senior enlisted leader role as "the fitting of men in a position so critical, that no unit can function without, no commander can lead without and no men can serve without them."

"A command sergeant major's leadership, professionalism, responsibility and dedication weave every minute through the entire organization, from top to bottom," Beaudette said. "The command sergeant major is a symbol of leadership."



Lonergan

"We are at the tip of the spear, ready to take off at a moment's notice to new and unnamed battle fields to deny safe haven, training areas and support to emerging foes within the EUCOM and the NATO footprint."

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Lonergan
1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

"As we are all part of the first and oldest modern special operations force in the military, it is only fitting that we are still forward deployed, at the tip of the spear, ready to take off at a moment's notice to new and unnamed battle fields - to deny safe haven, training areas and support to emerging foes within the EUCOM and the NATO footprint," Lonergan said to the Soldiers. He is no stranger to the battalion, having previously served as a first sergeant and company-level sergeant major here.

The outgoing senior enlisted leader challenged the special operations troops to achieve the U.S. Special Operations Command vision which is to be the premier team of Special Forces warriors.

"Today our military is committed with Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Marines serving in more than 120 countries around the world," Bynum said. "I'm extremely proud of your accomplishments in Iraq, Afghanistan, in the Balkans, and across northern Africa. Our enemies are attempting to adapt to our tactics each day, so we must consistently adapt and change as well."

"We are poised to prevent the next big fight and to take the fight to the enemies of freedom wherever they might try to establish footholds for injustice, oppression and tyranny," Lonergan concluded.

The noncommissioned officer sword was adopted by the War Department in 1840. It was worn by American sergeants for more than 70 years. The passing of the sword ceremony is one of the oldest military traditions.

2006 Girl Scout Camp

Camp inspires character, builds friendships



Elizabeth Sousa, a fifth-grader at Patch Elementary School, scales the climbing wall at the Panzer Fitness Center gymnasium Aug. 23 during this year's Girl Scout Day Camp.



Christina Furst (left) and Maggie Beans paint wooden picture frames Aug. 23 on Panzer.



[Above] Jennifer Holz, a daisy scout, gives it her best pull at the archery range Aug. 23. [Right] A scout takes a leisurely ride through the Schwäbisch Alp countryside.



photo courtesy of Stephen Bray

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Suspended on the climbing wall at the Panzer Fitness Center, Brittany Rivers has run out of ideas.

She knows it too.

There is not a single drop of energy left in her tiny fingers. She should rappel down, but she refuses to budge.

Instead, she leans back against the tension of the rope hanging like a turtle in midair and starts to laugh.

Fifteen feet below, Katie DeCecco, a freshman from Patch High School, stands at the other end of the line. She wenches down the rope in the carabiner and sits back. The two aren't going anywhere anytime soon.

Seconds pass, until DeCecco shouts out to Brittany to use her feet. The advice takes some time to trickle in but starts to register.

Brittany swings her right leg over the wooden ledge and presses down with her heel. Grabbing the rope with both hands, she grits her teeth and waits for DeCecco to hoist her up.

Equally fatigued, DeCecco gives one last tug, and Brittany, a fifth-grader from Patch Elementary School, suddenly finds herself at the top. With a smile wrapped from ear to ear, she blows kisses down to her many fans: the girls from Troop 9.

The scene was just one of the many small triumphs that took place during the 2006 Girl Scouts Day Camp held Aug. 21 to 24.

From rock climbing to archery, the focus of this year's camp was outdoor skills, and the 144 girls, representing numerous troops throughout the Stuttgart military community, which took part, learned a few things about living among the creepy crawlers.

"I wanted to give them a flavor of what it means to camp and hike," said Lt. Col. Eric Warner of Headquarters, U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, who served as the camp's director. "I don't think the girls get enough of the outdoors throughout the year."

For the most part, the camp took place at three different locations: the Hallenbad swimming pool in Sindelfingen, the Reiterhof horse stable in Weil der Stadt, and inside the Kaserne itself. Troops rotated each day between these sites.

"Our main goal was to expose them to as many outdoor activities as possible. Before today, most girls didn't know what archery meant," said Stuttgart Girl Scouts Overseas Committee Chair Jeanne Glogowski. "We of course kept the fun things that girls normally associate with scouts like the sing-alongs and the craft projects."

Each morning, just after 10 a.m., two buses set off in opposite directions, one bound for the pool, where girls learned water rescue techniques and lifesaving skills, and the other toward the horse stable, located 45 minutes south of Stuttgart.

At Reiterhof, troops took part in numerous outdoor activities, while learning the value of teamwork.

Some girls tromped up and down hills with a map and compass searching for clues to solve a scavenger hunt riddle. Others rode horses. All girls took part in a class simply called "Camp Skills," in which they learned the lessons essential for "roughing it" in the wild like pitching a tent or starting a signal fire.

"They are all meeting new friends and learning to work together," said Alicia Riley, a

I wanted to give them a flavor of what it means to camp and hike.

Lt. Col. Eric Warner
Camp Director

troop volunteer. "They all realized it's not that easy to set up a tent by yourself."

On Panzer Kaserne, troops shuffled every hour between rock climbing, archery, science and craft corners.

At the craft tent, set up just behind the Panzer gym, several girls from Troop 157 painted caterpillars on clothes pins, while others twisted and tied friendship bracelets.

On Thursday, during the end-of-the-week campout on Panzer's Limited Training Activity, the girls would exchange their craft trinkets with other troops, a scouting tradition known as swapping.

"A swap can be absolutely anything," said Tracey Whitehurst, a volunteer at the tent. "They are all handmade which makes them personal."

Maggie Beans, a fifth-grader at Patch Elementary School, said she was more excited to add to her swap collection, which stood at 35, than camping below the stars.

"I'm not really the outdoorsy type. I'm the indoor type," she said. "I don't like the whole 'sleeping on the ground' thing."

Heidi Holz, a volunteer with Kelley Barracks' Troop 157, found the extra motivation to camp among the crickets from her two daughters, who took part in the camp.

"The girls are very excited about camping out," she said. "I loved it when I was a kid, but not so much now. I'm doing it for my kids."

For the first time, this year's campout was open not only to the junior scouts, but to the brownies (ages 6 to 8) and the daisies (age 5), as long as their parents took part in the overnighter.

Maj. Wendy Rivers of Headquarters, U.S. European Command, and her daughter, Brittany, the aforementioned rock climber, arrived in Stuttgart June 9 of this year. Rivers said that the Girl Scouts has helped her daughter transition into the community just before the start of the school year.

"I think the biggest thing for kids in the military is having to leave a community and enter a new one," she said. "Girl Scouts helps her engage in relationships and build friendships."

More than 60 volunteers answered the call to help out during the weeklong camp.

"It's all worth it when you see the girls and how much fun they are having," said Warner, who logged in countless hours organizing the event. "If it's a campout or a day hike, we have room for volunteers at anytime. What people can give just makes the program better."

For more about the Girl Scouts visit www.girlscouts.org. For more about scouting in the Stuttgart area call 0711-656-9993.

C.A.R.E. Fair

Annual event features 59 local organizations

Story & photos by Raquel Hicks

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart in conjunction with Army Community Services hosted the annual Community, Activities, Registration & Education (C.A.R.E.) Fair Aug. 26 in the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium.

Fifty nine local organizations were represented during the C.A.R.E. Fair including the Dental Clinic, D.A.R.E., Stuttgart Little League Baseball, Child and Youth Services Sports, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. The American Legion served free hot dogs and drinks, and there was a live Irish dance performance by the CYS Sports sponsored group, Fainne, instructed by Aine Halpin.

The objective of the fair was to bring as many USAG Stuttgart organizations under one roof as possible. People were able to sign up for sports, scouts and other organizations as well as learn about organizations they may have been unaware of.

Stacie Hatten, a new member of the community signed her children up for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts while attending the fair. She stated that, "Right before school starts, this [C.A.R.E. Fair] helps new people learn about all the programs here. There were some I didn't even know existed." When asked how she learned about the fair Hatten simply stated, "The Community Post."

Still residing in off base hotels were attendees Andrea Abrahamson and Kimberly Vogel, who learned about the fair during the elementary school welcome event.

Right before school, this helps people learn about all the programs here. There were some I didn't even know existed.

Stacie Hatten
Civilian

Abrahamson said, "The fair is great, there is a lot of information in one spot here."

Vogel agreed. "Definitely, it's great that they have it like this. It's better than looking all over base for [organization] contact information."

USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens also attended the fair with his wife, Gaby. "I feel it's an important event. There's a wide variety of interesting information that people can get in one place, and they can see what's new; such as the new AAFES facility diagram on display."

Mrs. Juergens concluded by stating, "There was an incredible amount of hard work put in on behalf of ACS. We are blessed to



[Above] Fifty nine local organizations took part in this year's C.A.R.E. Fair held Aug. 26 in the Patch Fitness Center gymnasium. [Right] Anna DeCecco, a second-grader at Patch Elementary School, and her friend enjoy some of the free spoils from the C.A.R.E. Fair Aug. 26 in the Patch gym.



have such a dedicated staff."

James Corpus, the fair coordinator was pleased with the event and has already turned his eye to next year.

For more information visit ACS online at <http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/sites/local/> and click on Army Community Service.

Think twice before declining rental car insurance, tips on avoiding problems

By Lt. Col. Todd Liebman
Law Center Release

You have started your vacation and arrived at your destination after a relaxing flight. You walk up to the rental car counter to pick up your car and the agent asks if you want the optional insurance through the rental car company. At \$20.00 per day, the coverage seems a little costly, and you remember hearing that your personal auto insurance provides sufficient coverage.

As you drive away from the airport you briefly ponder what the "right" answer to the rental car insurance question really is. Of course, any good lawyer will tell you that it depends. Here are the facts.

If you take the rental car company's insurance, chances are you are paying to alleviate any problems should the car be damaged in an accident. The answer is conditional because you must still be operating the vehicle lawfully.

Many, if not most, insurance contracts have clauses that provide that the coverage will not protect you if you are driving recklessly, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Assuming those factors are not present, the rental company's insurance provides a comfortable layer of protection for a price.

Another benefit to the rental company's insurance is that it likely includes "loss of use" insurance. This "insurance" is actually a waiver from the rental car company that they will not require you to pay for the loss of rental profit for the time the rental car is being repaired.

It is true that your own auto insurance may protect you when renting a vehicle or borrowing someone else's

Even if you have comprehensive insurance, you may run into trouble if the rental car is worth more than your own car.

vehicle. You should check with your insurance company to make sure they offer this coverage. However, your own deductibles and policy exclusions will apply. If you have a high deductible policy, and the car is damaged, you will still be responsible for the portion of the damage within your deductible.

Another problem is the failure to have the right coverage for the damage incurred. For example, assume you own a hoopty and carry no comprehensive insurance (insurance that pays for damage to your car as opposed to liability coverage that pays for the damage you cause to someone else's vehicle).

If you rent your dream Mercedes and end up totaling it, your insurance will not pay for the damage to the rented vehicle, only for damage you cause to others. You will end up being responsible to the rental company for the damage to the rental car.

Even if you have comprehensive insurance, you may run into trouble if the rental car is worth more than your

own car. Check with your insurance carrier to determine if they will pay the difference between the value of your car and the amount of the damage to the rental car.

It is important to remember that credit cards frequently provide coverage for damage to the rental car as part of the services they provide to cardholders. This is a valuable benefit, and you should check with your credit card company to see if they provide that coverage. Remember, that the same rules apply.

Drinking and driving is always a bad idea, and in this case, it can serve to cancel your insurance coverage.

Coverage through a credit card is usually very limited coverage covering damage to the rental car, and does not usually provide liability coverage for damage to other persons or vehicles or any medical coverage.

It also may not cover expensive vehicles such as SUVs or high end rentals.

Next time you walk up to that rental counter, make sure you have adequate insurance coverage before you decline coverage offered by the rental car company. Review your car insurance coverage with your carrier and shop for the best coverage for the least amount that you can find.

Check with your credit card companies, find one that has rental car insurance automatically built in, and make sure you use that card when you rent a car.

Finally, if you are in doubt about whether your insurance is adequate, accept at least the loss damage waiver and collision damage insurance offered by the rental car company.

It may offer peace of mind and save you a lot of hassles and expense, not to mention a trip to the Legal Assistance Office.

Youth return to schools in Stuttgart



[Left] Area students, like Jalend Venn, had a few questions on the first day of school. [Right] A line of students board the bus to travel to RBEMS Aug. 28.



Two students look up their class schedules at RBEMS Aug. 28.



photos by Raquel Hicks

Students from Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School hit the books on the first official day of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools 2006-07 school year Aug. 28.

New principals prepared to lead area schools

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Stuttgart-area students met more than just new text books Aug. 28. As the first day of the DoDDS school year got underway, local schools welcomed several new faces in its administrative ranks. Learn more about these school leaders below:

Robert Allen, Ph.D.
Principal
Patch Elementary School

Allen joins the PES staff after a six-year tenure as the elementary school principal in Vicenza, Italy. During his time, he promoted multi-age classes, revitalized the extracurricular programs and enhanced the school's computer education instruction, according to his biographical vitae.



Allen

Allen received his doctorate degree in educational administration from Columbia University in 1982. Before that, he graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his master's degree in the same subject from the University of Missouri. Allen also served as a reserve officer with the U.S. Army in Germany from 1967 to 1970.

He is married and has two children, both of whom are students at the University of Washington.

Harriet Hunter-Boykin, Ph.D.
Principal
Böblingen Elementary/Middle School

An educator with over 30 years of experi-

ence, Hunter-Boykin joins BEMS from Illesheim, Germany, where she was the principal of the elementary/middle school for the last three years.

Her previous posts included a tenure as the assistant principal at the Würzburg American Middle School, a site team leader with the 'Framework for School Improvement' program, a coordinator with the extended day program at the Schweinfurt Middle School and an education equity training specialist with the Department of Defense Education Activity.



Hunter-Boykin

A native of Suffolk, Va., she received her doctorate degree in educational administration from George Washington University. Before joining DoDEA, she assumed professorships at both George Washington University and Howard University, where she was a teacher trainer.

In addition to her university experience, she was a high school mathematics teacher for eleven years in the Washington D.C. public school system.

Hunter-Boykin has published numerous articles in national education journals such as 'The Journal of Negro Education,' 'Teacher Education Quarterly' and 'Journal of Psychology.'

She also co-authored a mathematics manual available by Ginn Press.

Ronald Lathrop
Assistant Principal
Patch Elementary School

Lathrop comes to Stuttgart from Hohenfels, where he served as the assistant



Lathrop

principal at the elementary school since 2002

A graduate of the University of Oregon, where he received his master's degree in education in 1992, Lathrop's resume includes 19 years of teaching experience both stateside and most recently at Vilseck ES.

He is a member of both the National Honorary for Educators and the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

He is married and has two girls.

Debbie Strong, Ph.D.
Assistant Principal
Böblingen Elementary/Middle School

A teacher and the former acting assistant principal at Robinson ES in Stuttgart, Strong joined the BES staff in March of this year. A native of Cumberland, Md., she has 25 years of teaching and administrative experience.



Strong

Strong received her master's degree in educational leadership from Georgia Southern University.

In 2000, she joined the Department of Defense Schools in Bad Aibling, Germany, where

she was an elementary teacher.

Upon the closure of the Bad Aibling military base, Strong moved to Stuttgart and joined the RBES staff as a third-grade teacher,

until she was promoted to acting principal in April 2005.

She is married and has two daughters, Ashley and Hayley, who reside in Savannah and Atlanta Ga., respectively.

Gloria Yokley, Ph.D.
Assistant Principal
Robinson Elementary/Middle School

A native of N.C., Yokley earned her doctorate degree in education from the University of Cincinnati.



Yokley

Since that time, she has worked in various school-related posts from teacher to administrator for the last 25 years.

After earning her master's degree from High Point University,

Yokley began her long history with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, teaching in various locations such as Aschaffenburg, Fuerth and Grafenwoehr, Germany.

For her contributions, she received the Patriotic Civilian Federal Service medal.

Yokley is married and has five children plus eleven grandchildren.

Stuttgart-area schools need substitute teachers.

For details visit www.bav-dso.eu.dodea.edu to fill out an application.

2006 Youth Leadership Forum

Annual CYS gathering encourages teen voices, character counts

Story by Sue Ferrare

Fourteen Stuttgart and two Garmisch young people took some time out of their summer to give themselves an opportunity for growth and leadership development during the 2006 Mini Youth Leadership Forum held in Garmisch.

The Forum was conducted from Aug. 14 to 17 by both the Youth Services workers from both Stuttgart and Garmisch as well Camp Adventure counselors from Stuttgart.

"It was mainly about becoming leaders and encouraging us to get involved," said Emily Tedesco, a 9th-grader from Munich International School.

Getting the young people involved in the leadership of local youth councils was one of the main reasons Michelle Durgin, director of USAG Stuttgart Youth Services, wanted her youth to come to the forum.

"This is a springboard to get the teens involved in the leadership aspect [of local youth councils]," Durgin said. She said the Stuttgart Teen Center has been running teen forums, which are venues where teens can voice their issues, but there wasn't anything in place where teens took an active leadership role. Durgin hopes to set up a council where teens have a part in following through the entire process of presenting problems and trying to find solutions as well as following them up the "Teen Chain of Communication."

One of the ways to get the students involved, Durgin said, was to familiarize the young people with the process of youth councils and what it entails. During the forum, the young people were taught the Teen Chain of Communication within the Army and what channels the Army uses to get their issues heard. They also got a chance to talk about the important issues in their community and what they would like to do about them.

The students learned about leadership another way through the Character Counts activities. These activities taught them the six pillars of character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Then they were asked to write down different ways to show character, Tedesco said.

It was after this that the leaders introduced the Paperclip Challenge, Durgin said.

"The Paperclip Challenge was basically introduced with Character Counts on Monday, the first day that we were here," she said. "What we said was, when we see acts of character (throughout the week), you'll get a paperclip. What we challenged them to do was to build a paperclip chain connecting one tent to the other tent."

The students were then offered a prize for connecting the tents, Durgin explained. If the tents were connected by the end of the forum week, then next week's scheduled trip to Fantasia Land would be free.

To make sure that they weren't just doing it for paperclips, Durgin imposed another rule: you couldn't ask for the paperclip



photos courtesy of Skyler McClelland

Youth from USAG Stuttgart and Garmisch Child and Youth Services programs participated in the 2006 Youth Leadership Forum Aug. 14 to 17. The weeklong gathering featured numerous teambuilding activities such as whitewater rafting.

after doing something that showed character.

"Character is what you do in the dark," she said. "It's just an idea to make sure that they were rewarded, because people respond to rewards. And we didn't always have paperclips on us to do it. But when we got back and gave them one, they'd say, 'Of course I did that, obviously. We had a really great group of kids here.'"

After the first day, the young people participated in many outdoor activities and projects. Many of them were surprised to find out that they could apply the six pillars of character to the activities they were doing.

"When we started doing the posters (during the Character Counts activities), I didn't really think it would be tying in with everything, but in every activity we did it connected," said Rachel Smith, a 12th grader from Patch. "The activities we did really taught us about those qualities."

"We learned how to trust our partners when we rappelled face first down the wall, and we learned about showing respect on the hike and how you can't take a short cut," Tedesco said.

This is a springboard to get the teens involved in the leadership aspect of local youth councils.

Michelle Durgin
Director
USAG Stuttgart Youth Services' 'The Hub'



Teens took hikes through the picturesque German Alps and scaled rock walls during the 2006 Youth Leadership Forum held Aug. 14 to 17 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.



GAS first-graders practice German tradition

Story and photo by Sue Ferrare

Many Americans in Germany may wonder about the brightly colored cardboard cones they see some German children carrying on their first day of school.

Students in the Garmisch American School first-grade class will already know what's going on, because they got the chance to carry one, too.

The colorful cardboard cone is called a *Schultuete* or school cone. On the first day of first-grade, German parents present their children a Schultuete.

It's usually filled with treats or school supplies and the idea is to "sweeten up the beginning of all the rest of their years of schooling," said Phyllis Keely, first-grade teacher at GAS.

"This is a tradition that is only done on the first day of first-grade and never again," she said.

According to the Wikipedia encyclopedia, the habit of giving Schultuete to students dates back to approximately 1810 in Saxony and Thuringia in Germany.

Originally the parents did not give the cone directly to the students but marked them with their child's name and took them to the school



First-grade students from Garmisch American School show off their Schultueten (school cones), a German tradition on the first day of school.

to be hung on a *Schultuetenbaum* or school cone tree. The story that was told to the children was that there is a Schultuetenbaum growing at the school and if the fruit (the Schultueten)

were ripe and big enough to pick, it was time for them to go to school for the first time.

Keely said she first learned about this tradition when her children went to first-grade at a

German school.

"My children went to German school and they did the Schultuete thing," she said. "I was excited about doing it. They are a surprise -- the children don't know what's inside them."

Nor do they find out as soon as they get to school, she explained. The children take the cones to school but have to wait until they are home again to see what's inside.

Having experienced the tradition herself, Keely decided to adopt it for her own first-grade classroom.

"It's really kind of a part of the Host Nation Program," she continued. "This is where we're living now and this is what first-graders do here and though first-grade has not started for German students yet, they may see first-graders carrying these on their way to school on their first day of school."

This is just one of the many traditions the first-graders at GAS will learn about from their host nation's teacher, Keely explained.

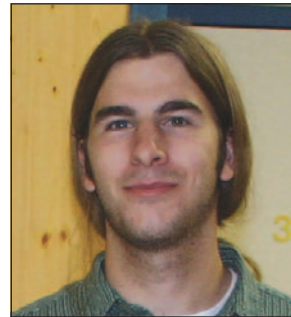
"I think it's great for them to learn the customs of different countries," she said. "Most of them are here for such a short time but they can learn about other people's cultures and first-graders around the world - how they do things the same and different."

Garmisch student awarded scholarships

Story by Sue Ferrare

Like many of his peers, Mitch Tedesco is planning for his first year of college. Unlike many of his peers, however, he has a plan to finish college debt-free.

Tedesco is hoping to use scholarship money for the lion's share of his college tuition. And not just the typical sports or academic scholarships – these are scholarships he's found through re-



Tedesco

search and gotten through filling out applications and writing essays.

So far he has won three scholarships worth a total of \$5,000: one from the Garmisch Spouses club, one from Wings

Over America, and one through a financial program run by the Boys and Girls Club of America.

"I think he is very unique in the ambition he shows towards getting scholarships and the effort he puts into it," said Angela Lambert, Director of the Middle School and Teen Center in Garmisch. "Filling out scholarship essays and applications takes a lot of time and

dedication."

Lambert feels it's very important to keep the graduating teens in her center informed about scholarship opportunities especially since there are so many available.

"I try to keep them as up to date as I can with Web sites and stuff that they can check into," she said. "The stats of how many scholarships are available compared to how many get used are just amazing. There are millions and millions of dollars that just sit there because no one applies for them. Often it's just a matter of just filling out the application and writing the essay."

Tedesco plans to take advantage of that fact. One way he has done that is by creating an account on FastWeb.com, a Web site that will send you scholarship opportunities they think you're eligible for based on your profile.

To date, Tedesco has applied for more than

12 scholarships and is adding more to that number all the time. He plans to continue applying for scholarships throughout his whole college career.

According to his father, Navy Cmdr. Michael Tedesco, Mitch has a few additional advantages other students may not have.

"I don't know if he's enjoyed writing assignments, but for him they always seemed to come easy," he said. "Mitchell has always been a good creative writer. Those (scholarships) are the ones that he has been most successful in – the ones with the heavy writing requirements."

He also is very interested in history, Michael said.

"Mitchell had a reputation, in the 2nd or 3rd grade, for being an authority on the Civil War," he said. "We were getting progress reports back about Mitchell having a great interest in history."

Like many of his peers, Mitch Tedesco is planning for his first year of college. Unlike many of his peers, he has a plan to finish college debt-free.

Right now, Tedesco's plan is to study History at the University of Edinburgh, although, like a typical college freshman, he's not sure if that's exactly what he wants to do.

"I didn't really think of it as being interested in history, I was just like, what's something cool that happened at this time?" he said. "I was born in Spain, so I want to know more about Spain. Then I found out that my last name is the Italian word for German so I was like, where did that come from? It just interests me."

His parents use this interest to help find Tedesco new scholarship opportunities.

"If this is anything even remotely interesting to Mitchell, we know he can knock it out," Michael said.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of sending in a transcript or a couple of letters of recommendation – which he has collected – and sometimes it's a matter of putting together a few essays or reading a book and writing an essay about the book."

Seeing Tedesco putting forth the effort and making it happen is really encouraging, Lambert said. She wishes more teens would take advantage of the scholarship opportunities that are available.

"The money's out there, the students just need to keep on applying," she said.

And that's just what Tedesco said he plans to do.

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.....
Entries must be submitted by October 8th

.....
Judging will be on October 10th

.....
Awards will be given October 11th, 1800

.....
Public viewing will be during judging, & 1600 on Oct. 11th
.....
at Kelley Community Club, Bldg 3300

.....
Entry forms and guidelines are available at
.....
the RB Arts & Photo & the Patch Frame Shop



For more info, call RB Arts and Photo DSN 420-6038 / Civ. 0711-819-6038

Don't be a victim of identity theft or telephone fraud

Tricare News Release

Recently a Tricare beneficiary reported a possible telephone scam involving someone asking for personal bank account information. This appears to be an incident of phone fraud and is not a security breach or incident.

Sam Jenkins, Tricare Management Activity's Privacy Officer, says personal or financial information should never be given to anyone who calls you or comes to your

home uninvited, claiming they are collecting fees or other funds on behalf of Tricare or selling Tricare-related products.

"Only give personal information when you have made the contact—for example calling one of the Tricare toll-free customer service numbers or visiting a Tricare Web site," Jenkins says. "Tricare will never contact you to ask for your financial information." He adds that Tricare will only request this information when you initiate the call, and then only when it is appropriate.

Protect personal information

If you think someone is misusing your personal information, contact the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338 to make a report.

If you receive a call of this nature from someone identifying themselves as a Tricare representative, report it to Tricare immediately.

Where to report possible fraud?

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Tricare Management Activity
ATTN: Privacy Office
5111 Leesburg Pike, Suite 810
Fall Church, VA 22041

For more information call visit Tricare online at www.tricare.osd.mil.


You should also contact the fraud departments of the three consumer reporting companies to place a fraud alert on your credit report.

The fraud alert tells creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making changes to your existing accounts. Once you place the fraud alert in your file, you may order free copies of your credit reports.

We have posted contact information for all three companies, along with more tips and a list of resources to help you protect your identity, on the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheet/fraud.cmf.

About Tricare

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HEALTH CARE CORNER

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations

Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care

Every Tuesday

Laboratory

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams

Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care

Every Wednesday

Appointments

430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611

Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online
Visit www.tricareonline.com

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments

430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments

440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note

Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart – 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827



USAG Stuttgart Fire Department Assistant Chief Hermann Seitz gives William Walford a few pointers before the first-grader from Böblingen Elementary School bowled the weighty fire hose at a circle of wooden pins set up about 10 feet away. Several firefighters were on hand during Kelley Day to give kids a tour of the fire truck and to talk to parents about safety.



Sgt. Craig Robison of USAG Stuttgart Headquarters and Headquarters Company gives his daughter Lacey Robison, age 4, a lift up on Cooper Field.



Hugh C. McBride



[Top Left] Face-painting was one of many attractions going on during Kelley Day Aug. 24. [Bottom Left] U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens takes a swing at the ball during the Kelley Day softball game held on Cooper Field. [Right] Robert Gromer of DPW hustles down the first-base line after getting a hit.

A great time on Kelley

Garrison recognizes community achievements of past year

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Kenneth G. Juergens called it a day to "let your hair down and have some fun."

From big hits on the softball diamond to an American-style barbeque, members of the military community on Kelley Barracks got a day off Aug. 24 during Kelley Day.

"We just want to take some time out of our busy schedules and recognize all the achievements of this garrison over the past year," said Juergens. "You guys really deserve something like this."

The day's lineup of activities began with a softball game on Cooper Field at 9 a.m. Community members kept bats sizzling for four action-packed innings.

In the spirit of German-American relations, many of the garrison's local national employ-

ees had their first taste of 'three strikes you're out.' Several proved to be fast learners.

"This is the first time I've swung a bat," said Joe Roemer, who poked a loopier out to left field in the third inning.

In the Kelley Fitness Center gymnasium, youth from the local Child Development Center and the School Age Services stopped by to get their faces painted and jump in the always popular bouncy castle.

Following a kick ball game on the field adjacent to Cooper diamond, the community sat down for burgers, hot dogs and German potato salad for lunch.

"It's awesome to take time out and meet new people you don't see on a daily basis," said Sgt. Craig Robison of Headquarters & Headquarters Company.

[Right] Members of the USAG Stuttgart DPTMS manned the barbeque pit Aug. 24.



Hugh C. McBride

Even 'hands-free' cell phones reduce drivers' effectiveness

By J.T. Coleman
U.S. Army
Combat Readiness
Center

Psychologists at the University of Utah published a study June 29 showing that motorists who talk on handheld or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired in their driving as drunks.

Driver inattention is the leading factor in 80 percent of vehicle crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Just as you put yourself and other people at risk when you drive drunk, you put yourself and others at risk when you use a cell phone and drive. The level of impairment is very similar," said David Strayer, a psychology professor and the study's lead author.

One analysis shows cell phone users are more than five times more likely to get in an accident than are undistracted drivers.

Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a Department of Defense installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device.

"The regulation covering cell phone use while driving is the minimum standard to be enforced. Posts and individual commanders can make it more stringent," according to Fred

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DSN 421-2475 / CIV 0711-729-2475

Bucher, acting Policy Branch chief of the Law Enforcement Branch in the Pentagon. "Training and Doctrine Command has initiated a policy that active-duty members must also use a hands-free device while driving their vehicles off post," said Bucher.

There is little change in the degree of attentiveness that can be made from people using a hands-free device or having a phone to their ear while driving, said Bucher.

"Statistics in the military don't directly link cell phone use while driving to accidents. However, many officers are writing in the remarks section of the citations that drivers were on the phone when they violated rules of the road such as illegal lane changes or speeding," Bucher said.

This article originally appeared online on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Web site, <https://crc.army.mil>.

DoD sets Oct. 3 deadline to file body armor claims

By Cpt. John Choike
Stuttgart Legal Center

The claims filing deadline for Soldiers seeking reimbursement for certain private purchases of protective, health, and safety equipment – such as personal body armor – is rapidly approaching. The Department of Defense has established October 3, 2006, as the final submission date for all relevant claims.

Pursuant to a 2004 Act of Congress, the Armed Services began reimbursing Service Members last November for private purchases of qualifying equipment between September 11, 2001 and April 1, 2006 if such purchases were made in anticipation of or during the Service Member's deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

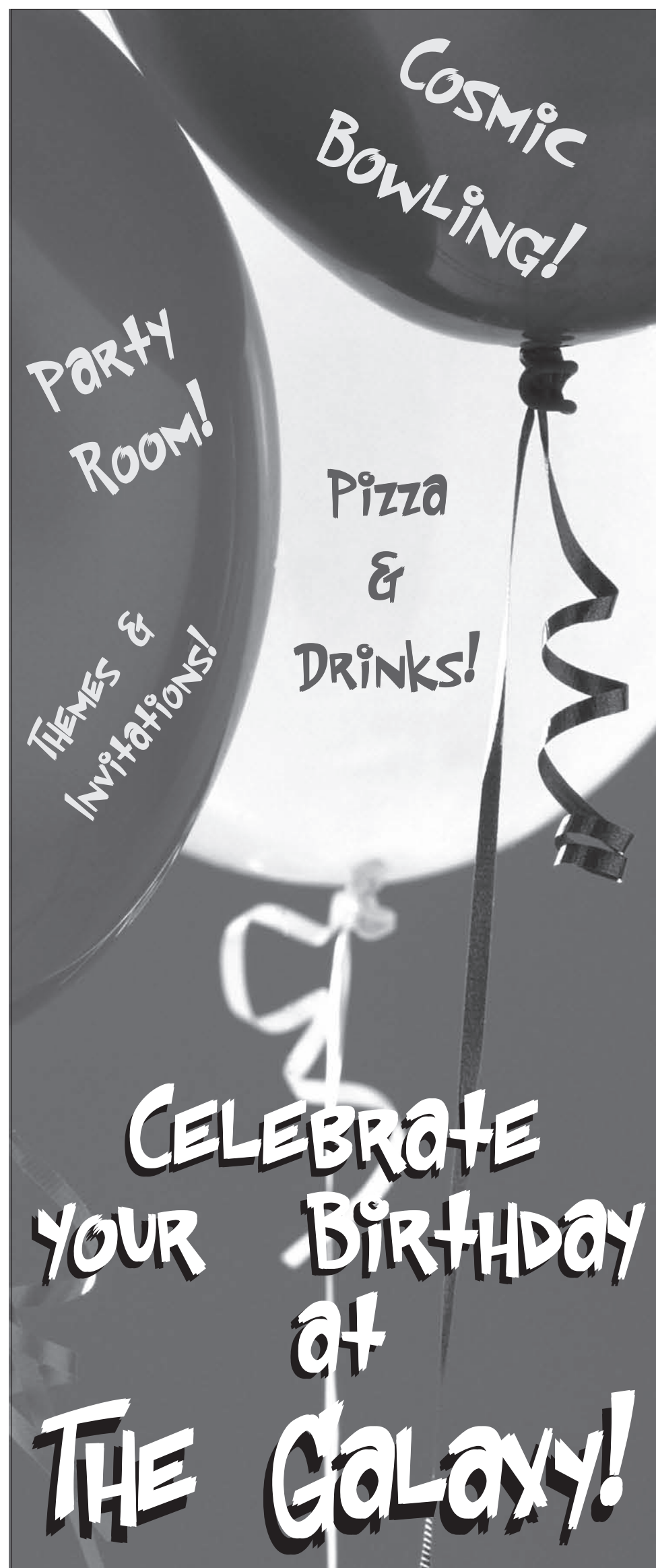
Specifically, Service Members are eligible for up to \$1,100 of reimbursement per item for buying protective gear if they did not receive equivalent protection from

their unit and they deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Noble Eagle.

Soldiers who purchased equipment that qualifies for reimbursement, and have not filed a claim, must do so by October 3rd. Claims should be filed with the Soldier's current unit. Former Soldiers should mail claims to the United States Army Claims Service at Fort Meade, Maryland, and ensure that the claims are postmarked by October 3rd.

For more information on the reimbursement program – including qualifying details, instructions on how and where to file a claim, and a copy of the requisite claims form – please visit www.jagcnet.army.mil and follow the link to the "Protective Gear Reimbursement Program."

You can also contact Cpt. Choike at 421-2566/civ. 0711-729-2566 or email john.choike@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil.



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Stuttgart Soldiers help Augsburg celebrate

Local contingent helps keep German-American friendship strong in community that formerly hosted U.S. troops

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

It has been about eight years since the U.S. Army left Augsburg. But though the troops are gone from this historic Bavarian city, the spirit of international friendship remains strong.

And thanks to a group of Stuttgart Soldiers, the Stars and Stripes flew proudly as the city celebrated the start of its annual Plärrer Fest.

Thirteen Soldiers from three Stuttgart-based units (U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 52nd Signal Battalion and Stuttgart Military Intelligence Detachment) came to Augsburg for the Aug. 26 festivities at the request of Joe Ittner, president of the "America in Augsburg" friendship group.

"The Americans got the biggest ovation of any group in the parade," Ittner said. "The people here were very happy to see them."

1st Sgt. Jose Cruz Jr. of the USAG-Stuttgart HHC said the feeling of appreciation was mutual. "It was an honor to represent the U.S. Army, and it was a great way to help say 'thank you' to the people of Augsburg for the many years they supported our troops."

In the 1970s and 1980s, when the VII Corps Field Artillery was headquartered there, up to 20,000 U.S. troops called Augsburg home. The U.S. military officially left the town in 1998.



[Above] The Stuttgart group prepares to relax in the fest tent after the Aug. 26 parade. Front Row, left to right: Spc. Andria Alvarez, Sgt. Tiffany Hester, Spc. Jay Thomas, Spc. Clifford Sneed, Pfc. Stephanie Bishop, Spc. Cheryl Mitchell, Spc. Michelle LePage. Back Row, left to right: Spc. Jason Sevier, Pfc. Anthony Gurule, 1st Sgt. Jose Cruz Jr., Pvt. James Phillips, Sgt. Nicole Arrants, Staff Sgt. Gerald Miller.

[Left] The Stuttgart Soldiers lead a convoy of World War II-era vehicles during the Aug. 26 parade. The Soldiers attended the festivities at the request of "America in Augsburg," a German-American friendship group.

Program provides U.S. citizens with up-close look at city, state governments in Stuttgart

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Members of the Stuttgart military community are invited to spend Sept. 25 as guests of the City of Stuttgart and the State of Baden-Württemberg.

The Capital City Visitation Program provides service members, civilians and spouses with an overview of Baden-Württemberg as well as an up-close look at the the State Parliament, the State Government and the City of Stuttgart.

This is an excellent opportunity to provide an understanding of the history shared by the U.S. Forces and the State of Baden-Württemberg, with special emphasis on the crucial role the United States played in reconstructing war-torn Germany and providing it with its present-day democratic constitution.

The daylong program begins at the State Parliament with a presentation on Germany's political structure and current political situation as well as a comparison to the U.S. political system.

The presentation will also include a film about the State of Baden-Württemberg. Following the presentations, a luncheon will be hosted for all participants in either the restaurant of the State Parliament or in the "Ratskeller" as guests of the City of Stuttgart.

A tour guide will then join the group to provide a guided walking tour to the adjacent State Theater, Neues Schloß and Altes Schloß and the Market Hall of Stuttgart. The program concludes with a reception at the City Hall with the Lord Mayor or a personal envoy of the Lord Mayor.

The presentation at the City Hall also includes a film showing some of the highlights of the city of Stuttgart and the state of Baden-Württemberg.



The Neues Schloss on the popular Schlossplatz in downtown Stuttgart is one stop on the Capital City Visitation Program, which is being revised after a five-year absence.

Each participant will receive informative handouts in the form of brochures and books from both the State Parliament and the City of Stuttgart, covering a myriad of topics on history, politics and culture, as well as taking a light-hearted look at "those strange German ways."

There are no costs or fees for individuals who participate in this program. Transportation to and from downtown Stuttgart will be via bus provided by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. The bus will depart from Patch Barracks at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

For service members and other military personnel who sign up for the tour, their place of duty for that day is with

the tour.

Due to force protection considerations, the uniform for the day is appropriate civilian attire that presents a respectable positive image for the U.S. military.

Also, please note that this tour is not designed for children.

For more information or to register for the tour call 431-2599/ civ. 07031-15-2599, e-mail nelly.x.williams@us.army.mil or visit the USAG Stuttgart In-Processing Center on the first floor of the Community Welcome Center on Panzer Kaserne.



U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Emergency Services Presents

National Night Out

A Community Celebration of Safety & Security

*September 23 (Noon to 5 p.m.)
Patch Barracks – Washington Square*

- * Law enforcement displays and demonstrations **
- * Child safety stations – featuring Ident-A-Kid kits **
- * Drug, crime & violence prevention information **

*Learn all about
SNAP & DARE
in Stuttgart!*

For more information

*DSN 430-5560
CIV 0711-680-5560
earnest.epps@us.army.mil*

*Games for kids,
face painting
& free food for all!*